



TPEAC Pilot Projects

The 2003 Legislature directed TPEAC to select ten pilot projects for WSDOT to “draft permit terms and conditions for resource agency review and approval”. These projects include:

- **US 101** – Northbound Truck Climbing Lane (Jefferson Co.)
- **I-5** Pierce County Line to Tukwila Phase 4 HOV (King Co.)
- **I-405** Master Plan: Phase I (Nickel Projects) (King Co.)
- **I-5** from Rush Road to 13th Street (Lewis Co.)
- **SR 106**/Skobob Creek – Fish Passage (Mason Co.)
- **SR 539 I-5** Access/Improvements: Ten Mile Rd to International Border (Whatcom Co.)
- **SR 270** Pullman to Idaho St Line – Additional Lanes (Whitman Co.)
- **SR 22 / I-82** to McDonald Road (Yakima Co.)
- **SR 24 / I-82** to Keys Rd – Additional Lanes (Yakima Co.)
- **WSF Project** – Edmonds Multimodal Terminal (Snohomish Co.)

SR-24 / I-82 to Keys Road is the first pilot project to test this new process.

Upcoming Committee Meeting Schedules

TPEAC: March 24, 2004

Programmatics: February 12, 2004
March 9, 2004

Pilot/One-Stop: February 17, 2004
March 8, 2004

Watershed: February 17, 2004
March 16, 2004

Contact Information

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Transportation Permitting Efficiency and Accountability Committee

(TPEAC)



Committee History

In March 2003, the Washington State Legislature reauthorized the Environmental Permit Streamlining Act (RCW 47.06) to coordinate and streamline the environmental permitting process for transportation projects. The bill extended the expiration date of the interagency Transportation Permit Efficiency and Accountability Committee (TPEAC) through March 2006, to continue a sustained focus to achieve both the transportation and environment goals of the state.



Committee Goals

Goals for specific outcomes are established and detailed work plans and dates are set forth as follows:

- *Reduce the cost of environmental mitigation*
- *Increase environmental benefit*
- *Reduce the redesign of transportation projects*
- *Reduce the time required to obtain permits*
- *Increase the number of project permits that receive programmatic approval*

Committee Membership

TPEAC includes senators and representatives from the state legislature, state agencies, local governments and business, trade, and environmental organizations. Federal and tribal agencies are also invited and encouraged to participate.

Streamlining is an important tool to ensure that transportation dollars are used efficiently and effectively. Public involvement is an essential part of the streamlining process, through public outreach activities, performance reports, and public attendance at TPEAC meetings. TPEAC meets quarterly, and the public is encouraged to participate.

Watershed Based Mitigation Subcommittee

When project mitigation decisions are tied to the overall needs of the watershed, mitigation can add greater benefits to the ecosystem. Moreover, when project mitigation is completed away from WSDOT right of way, savings in property cost can be substantial.



This subcommittee is developing policies and creating technical tools to enable watershed based mitigation.

Permit Compliance and Training Subcommittee

TPEAC addressed improved permit compliance by adopting clear reporting procedures for construction and operations managers. This is combined with enhanced environmental training for staff to ensure that permit terms and conditions are understood and enforced.

Programmatic Permits Subcommittee

TPEAC created the Programmatic Subcommittee to develop permits for routine transportation maintenance and construction activities. A programmatic permit is a consistent set of permit conditions for environmental protection that are used whenever a certain type of project is constructed. This approach is best suited for simple or often repeated activities.

In June 2003, the subcommittee submitted to the Legislature a detailed work plan to develop programmatic coverage for the following nine high priority transportation activities:

Over Water Bridge Activities

- Bridge painting/washing
- Bridge deck repair

Drainage Maintenance Activities

- Ditch/channel maintenance
- Fishway maintenance
- Culvert maintenance
- Culvert replacement

In Water Activities

- Bridge scour repair
- Streambank stabilization
- Bridge replacement

To date, the Programmatic subcommittee has completed permit conditions for over water bridgework, including bridge painting and washing. The subcommittee is currently working on drainage maintenance and in water activities.

In June 2004, the subcommittee expects to develop a list of any remaining transportation activities that should be addressed through the programmatic approvals.

Local Government Task Force

As part of the TPEAC legislation, a Local Government Task Force was created to identify county and city permits which could be satisfied by uniform standards that can be developed and applied by local governments. Representatives from the Washington State Department of Transportation, Washington State Department of Ecology, the Washington State Association of Counties, and the Association of Washington Cities are currently participating.

The context for seeking uniform standards for cities and counties is to meet two objectives:

1. Enable WSDOT to expedite projects (apply similar standards from jurisdiction to jurisdiction); and
2. Improve local government processes- provide tools for local jurisdictions.

This subcommittee's next steps are to frame the issues surrounding local permit processes by comparing the findings of WSDOT and local government staff surveys. Opportunities to improve the regulatory process with local governments will then be identified.

Permit Delivery Subcommittee

This subcommittee was created to streamline permitting processes on transportation projects through early coordination between WSDOT and resource agencies. Streamlining the permitting process affects projects by reducing delays, maximizing environmental benefit, and increasing interagency coordination.

Federal, state, and local government agencies are currently coordinating innovations in environmental review and permit decision-making and testing these principles on 10 selected WSDOT projects.